

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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WORKSHOP ON MARRIAGE COUNSELING

A group of pastors, marriage Counselors, missionaries, teachers and other interested people met on February 25, 1963 at Ginza Christian Center, to discuss mutual problems on marriage counseling. This is the first attempt of the National Christian Council to plan a series of meetings with this subject as a focal point. The second of four will be held the end of April.

Through the means of lectures, panel discussions and question and answer periods, participants were given an opportunity to discuss the handling of such matters as helping young people to find marriage partners; premarital counseling; good Christian marriages; establishing workable relationships within Christian marriages; the role of the minister and the local church; the availability of Christian doctors and psychiatrists and the attitude of members of the family toward each other. Marriages in Japan have been arranged according to the point of view of the family, education, material possessions and property. In a gradual transition, marriages are becoming more independent; young people are choosing their own mates and having to face the difficulties arising from this new independence as well as the difficulties of marriage per se.

The group agreed that in a world with a materialistic emphasis and a moral standard set by "Hollywood", it is difficult to fill the vacuum of leisure time with worthwhile activities.

Parents feel inferior because their children are so knowledgeable about so many things. Confidence between family members is lessened. Young people go with their peer groups rather than respond to the wishes of parents.

Sponsored by the Christian Home and Family Life Committee of the Japan National Christian Council, the conference was arranged for 30 and 60 attended. Dr. Ralph P. Bridgman, an Episcopal layman, marriage counselor at the Family Court Center in Toledo, Ohio, was the featured speaker. He is presently Fulbright visiting lecturer at the Research and Training Institute for the Family Court Probation Offices of the Supreme Court of Japan.

Dr. Bridgman stressed the need for counseling relationships in the local church. Also, certain principles of marriage counseling came to light during the talks and the discussion periods:

The counselor always takes the attitude of respect for all clients and in this he has the superior example of Christ Himself. He does not push himself into a family situation; he will work with anyone who conscientiously is ready to study his predicament. Real healing takes place only where there is initiative on the part of the persons involved.

It is difficult for a minister who sees what is going on and is not able to mediate. He wants to reach out in love to that person. "Kagawa could mediate this to people," Dr. Bridgman commented.

There should be a distinction made between every-day pastoral care and guidance and the more unusual, professional counseling relationships geared to a deep family problem.

Those present felt that they had gained insight into the question of marriage counseling; they look forward to a time when Japanese pastors will meet occasionally to share each other's counseling problems, making use of doctors and psychiatrists as the occasion arises.

Active in the planning of this series of meetings is Mrs. Kazuko Suzuki, executive secretary of the Christian Home and Family Life Committee of the Japan NCC.

HEAVY SNOWS DAMAGE CHURCHES

Pastors of churches in northwestern Japan report that many of their churches and homes have been severely damaged by the heavy snows experienced in January. Virtually all traffic was brought to a standstill for three weeks during the storms. What the actual damage is will be known only after the ten to fifteen feet of snow has melted. The danger of floods pose a terrible threat and snow-slides are already taking their toll.

The worst damage is found among the small structures, especially those in crowded areas. Instead of shoveling the snow off the roof the process is to pile the snow away from and higher than the roof. The pressure of the snow on all sides of the buildings causes windows to break, twists the beams and in many cases causes a complete collapse of the structure.

The social Work Committee of the Kyodan has sent some aid to the churches in the area, but the extent of damage and required aid will only be known after the snow melts.

1963 JAPAN KESWICK CONVENTION GREAT SUCCESS

The second Japan Keswick Convention held at Kowakien Hotel

in Hakone, February 26 to March 1, attracted more than 1,300 participants, more than double the attendance of last year. The successful venture reflected a realization among Japanese-Christians of a need for a national conference of this type which aims at a deepening of spiritual life and action in sharing the Gospel.

More than 65 Japanese denominations were represented, there was a ratio of six laymen to five clergy, one hundred thirty listed themselves as inquirers, and about 165 missionaries attended the interdenominational event.

The next convention, in February, 1964, will be set up to receive 2,000 participants as the 1,000 limit set for this year proved to be much too low.

Special speakers were Rev. George Duncan, a popular speaker at the British Keswick Convention and Rev. Paul Reese, vice-president of World Vision. Unfortunately, Dr. Bob Pierce, president of World Vision, was not able to be present as a featured speaker because of illness.

GRAHAM'S ILLNESS CAUSES CANCELLATION OF PARTICIPATION

The six-week campaign of the Japan Baptist New Life Movement, scheduled to include five major rallies in Tokyo, Nagoya, Sapporo, Fukuoka and Kita-Kyushu with Dr. Billy Graham as one of the featured speakers, was set back somewhat by news that Dr. Graham, on doctor's orders, had to cancel his personal participation.

Plans, however, are continuing as scheduled, with the meetings to begin in Tokyo on March 30 at the huge Waseda University Memorial Hall.

Scheduled to arrive under the sponsorship of the New Life Movement are Liberian vice president William Tolbert Jr., the Hardin-Simmons University Cowboy Band, opera singers Irene Jordan and Cecelia Ward, Olympic champions Wilma Rudolph and Shelby Wilson, scientist Ralph Overman and TV star Gregory Walcott.

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL SERVICE HELD FOR LATE GOVERNOR

Funeral services were held at the Aoyama Funeral Hall on Feb. 26 for the late Hisaakira Kano, governor of Chiba Prefecture, who died Feb. 21 at St. Luke's Hospital in Tsukiji, Tokyo. Services were observed between 1 and 3 p.m., the first hour devoted to Christian services presided over by Rev. Hasaji Tsuruta and the second hour was for tribute by the public.

Among the more than 2,000 paying homage were prominent political and business leaders including former Prime Minister Ishibashi, and Shojiro Kawashima state minister in charge of the Tokyo Olympics.

The late governor was a mukyokai (non-church) Christian. The above mentioned Mr. Kawashima is also mukyokai. Mr. Kano's wife is a member of the Seikokai (Episcopal Church).

Gov. Kano recently caused repercussions with his attempt to adopt a 40-hour work week for prefectural government employees.

in March, February 18 to March 1, 1941, at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise attack by the Japanese Navy on the United States Navy fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack resulted in the destruction of many ships and aircraft, and the death of many sailors and airmen. The attack was a major turning point in the Pacific War.

More than 50 Japanese submarines were reported to have been active in the Pacific Ocean during the war. The submarines were used for a variety of purposes, including attacking ships, laying mines, and conducting reconnaissance. The submarines were a major threat to the United States Navy, and they played a significant role in the Pacific War.

In the Pacific Ocean, the Japanese Navy was the only one that had submarines. The United States Navy did not have submarines until the late 1930s. The Japanese Navy's submarines were a major threat to the United States Navy, and they played a significant role in the Pacific War.

Special operations were conducted by the Japanese Navy during the war. These operations included the use of submarines to attack ships, the use of aircraft to attack ships, and the use of land-based forces to attack ships. The Japanese Navy's special operations were a major threat to the United States Navy, and they played a significant role in the Pacific War.

THE JAPANESE SUBMARINE FLEET

The Japanese submarine fleet was the largest in the world during the war. It consisted of more than 50 submarines, and it was the only submarine fleet in the world that was capable of operating in the Pacific Ocean. The Japanese submarine fleet was a major threat to the United States Navy, and it played a significant role in the Pacific War.

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The attempt failed because of the opposition of central government officials but accelerated a nation-wide move toward shorter working hours.

The government has now decided to confer the Second Class Order of the Sacred Treasure upon the late governor.

JAPAN CHURCHES SPONSOR HOSPITALITY CENTER

A new hospitality center for American servicemen, sponsored by Japanese Protestant Churches, was formally opened February 14, 1963, in Yokosuka, Japan. Vice Admiral T.H. Moorer, Commander Seventh Fleet and Dr. Takeshi Muto, Moderator of the National Christian Council of Japan, took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Located in a new shopping area arcade on the third floor of the Tourists International Building, the Japan Christian Hospitality Center is open seven days a week from 1-8 p.m. It opens at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

English-speaking Japanese students will accompany servicemen on shopping expeditions and arrangements will be made for hospitality in Japanese homes. A what-shall-I-do-today? service offers suggestions, directions for self-conducted sightseeing and picture taking tours. A missionary locator service will help them find particular missionaries known to them, or the closest mission or church of their denomination.

A Religions of Japan tour takes groups of Navy men to a Buddhist temple where worship customs are explained by a Buddhist monk; a shrine with explanations from a Shinto priest; and a Japanese Christian pastor explains his work. Visits are included to representative Christian churches, social work institutions, Meiji Gakuin University, and a 300-year-old garden where the traditional tea ceremony is explained. Most tours include a typical Japanese meal in a home or inn.

The hospitality center is decorated in traditional Japanese style, with half of the area occupied by a tatami (mat floor) tearoom, with a kimono-clad hostess.

The director of the center is Mr. Kanji Shimada, a graduate of Meiji Gakuin University. He studied for a year at San Diego State University, assisted in part by a scholarship from the Chapel of Hope.

The center represents the first known instance in any country of national churches providing such a program for foreign servicemen. The national Christian Council of Japan cooperates with the Ministry to Service Personnel in the Far East of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and the Chapel of Hope. The latter is part of the naval base in Yokosuka, said to be the

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largest in the Orient. Every time a U.S. Navy ship comes into the base, 10,000 seamen come on shore, many of them Christian.

Americans, long accustomed to thinking of Christian missions as something American churches do for the people of other nations, will learn through this new center that mission activity is a two-way street.

JAPAN PROTESTANT CONFERENCE

A converted Communist, a converted Shinto Priest and a converted Roman Catholic priest were among the guests and featured speakers at the seventh annual convention of the Japan Protestant Conference (JPC) held at Atami February 19-20.

"Though I was an ardent member of the Japan Communist party, working night and day to bring about the 'glorious revolution,' I couldn't solve the problem of personal sin. I found the answer in the power of Christ's resurrection after hearing a message on Christ in 1954," stated Rev. Junji Hatori, Pastor of the Asagao Church.

Rev. Michiel DeBerdt, the converted Roman Catholic priest who came to Japan six years ago to Himeji said, "I began to doubt my faith over the question of the sinfulness of all men, including the Pope. I heard the Gospel over the radio in Holland on furlough and soon found full salvation in the risen Saviour."

Rev. Masatomi Kazama, a former priest of the Niigata Shinto Shinshu sect and now pastor of Nikko Imaichi FDK church was elected to the 36-member administrative committee.

Announcing the successful publishing of the Amplified New Testament in Japanese, Rev. Isamu Horikawa said that already 10,000 copies had been sold and predicted 100,000 would yet be sold.

Rev. Kiyoshi Mizugaki, speaking on the bill before the Diet to re-establish the National Foundation Day stated, "This year it was observed at 51 places in 41 prefectures. The bill has failed to pass six times, but its backers hope that this year will be the 'Lucky Seven.'" There is a movement to restore the ceremonies of the Yasukuni Shrine on a national basis.

